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ERLEND PETERSON finds the new drinking fountains on Center Street very much to his liking. This one is near the Chamber of Commerce offices.

Domestic Gas Supply Challenged by Demand

By FRED LANKARD
United Press International

A pair of recently issued reports indicate the turn of the century may find domestic gas production in a dead heat with demand.

One report, by the Potential Gas Committee, estimated that the undiscovered gas reserves total 690 trillion cubic feet. An earlier estimate by the Future Requirements Committee set gas requirements from 1966 to 1990 at 680 trillion cubic feet.

On the surface this would indicate a reserve cushion of only 10 trillion cubic feet, but the complexities of such forecasts make the picture less clear.

The PGC report, for instance, did not include existing proved reserves of 286 trillion cubic feet, it did not make allowance for imports and it did not include data regarding Hawaii and Alaska.

On the other hand, the total listed 180 trillion cubic feet in the uncertain area of "speculative" supplies from formations "not previously productive."

Two other categories of the anticipated reserves showed 300 trillion cubic feet of "probable" supplies and 210 trillion cubic feet of "possible" supplies.

The total is distributed over three geographic areas in the United States with 115 trillion cubic feet in the east, 470 tril-

lion in the central section of the country and 105 trillion awaiting wildcatters in the west.

The PGC noted it plans to issue more detailed reports at two year intervals because of the "inability to predict major changes in factors controlling the discovery and development of natural gas..."

The committee's future reports are expected to be expanded to include such items as: a geographical breakdown into 12 rather than 3 areas; study of the prospects for transported liquid natural gas; gas from coal, lignite and shale and similar studies of reserves in Canada and Mexico.

They will also delve into technological developments that could produce adjusted estimates based on the results of research into such fields as the use of nuclear explosions to tap previously unproductive gas formations.

Despite the hazards of long range predictions, the report considered the best yet in an area that has produced heated debate and demands from government and industry for well developed estimates from a single source.

Texarkana, two cities in one on the Texas-Arkansas border has separate municipal governments.

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